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American Fern Society

It was intended to offer to members in this number specimens of *Dryopteris cristata* \times *marginalis*, but that offering has been postponed in favor of a larger scheme. It is now proposed to issue sets of all *Dryopteris* hybrids of which sufficient material can be obtained, together with typical examples of the parent species for comparison. These sets will contain at least fifteen specimens, carefully determined (at least in part by Dr. Dowell, who has made *Dryopteris* hybrids a special study), will have special labels with printed heading and will be sold, to members of the Society and institutions which subscribe to the JOURNAL only, at two cents per sheet, plus postage. Mr. H. C. Bigelow, 22 Glen St., New Britain, Conn., has kindly agreed to take charge of preparing the sets for the Society. Orders should be sent to him now and, in case there is not enough material to go around, will be filled in the order of their receipt. Barring accident, sets will be ready for distribution in the fall.

SUMMER MEETINGS. In accordance with Dr. A. J. Grout's invitation, mentioned in the last number of the JOURNAL, a field meeting will be held at his cabin in Newfane, Vt., during the week of July 17th. The meeting will be partly a camping-out affair, but, unless the party is large, nothing extra but blankets will probably need to be carried in. Many of the more northern ferns, including *Polystichum Braunii* and a good representation of Lycopodiums, are to be found in the vicinity. Some members of the Society once saw there more of the lance-leaved Botrychium than they had ever expected to see in their lives. Dr. Grout writes that the equipment of his cabin includes "1 panoramic view, 3 states and 40 townships; 1 hermit thrush chorus at evening,

finest on the continent; and a private lake of 3 acres" in which pickerel and bull-heads can be caught. He does not state whether conscription will be resorted to in order to get the bull-heads cleaned. Mr. Leston A. Wheeler, Townshend, Vt., has consented to take charge of the arrangements for the meeting, and members who plan to attend—and we hope there will be a good number of them—should notify him and can get detailed information from him.

THE SOCIETY FERN GARDEN AT THE BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

By our arrangements last year with the Brooklyn Botanic Garden it was agreed that this year should see the beginning of a special fern garden to contain a collection of native hardy ferns and to include any plants which members of the American Fern Society might send in as a Society Fern Garden. One of the main ideas back of the plan was to provide a repository for plants of rare forms such as hybrids, which in the woods are liable to be lost sight of; another idea was to build up as complete a collection of native hardy ferns as possible. The purpose of the garden has this spring been extended to make it include the assembling of a collection of hardy ferns in general, the idea back of this being to make it possible for anyone interested in fern gardens to see the various species which are available. The Botanic Garden will this year arrange to obtain the various introduced species offered by American dealers.

The plot of ground where the garden is to be constructed is about fifty by one hundred feet, and lies on a slight slope with an easterly exposure. At present it is covered with some scrub trees and bushes, but these will gradually be replaced by trees for permanent planting. In the meantime necessary shade is already present. The actual arrangement is still to be determined but there will probably be laid out a rockery, a swamp section,

a small artificial brook, and a section to correspond with the ordinary upland woods. Wagon loads of leaf mould are already present, waiting for plants. A list of the species now at the Garden will be published in the next number, but it will be safe in the meantime to send in any kinds no matter how common, for the garden should represent not only species but distribution.

R. C. B.

As reported last fall, a second Society fern garden has been begun at the Harvard Botanic Garden and a third will be started during the coming season at the Missouri Botanical Garden at St. Louis. These collections of living plants bid fair to become one of the most interesting features of the Society's work. We cannot all have fern gardens of our own; but now we can all have a place where the ferns we find—and especially the rare and interesting forms which might be lost—will be cultivated and given expert care. And all we have to do is to send them in. The Society is much indebted to the authorities of the botanic gardens concerned for their cordial co-operation.

The Secretary has only just received word of the death of two of our members during 1915—Mr. Edwin Parsons Wentworth on June 30, and Rev. Fr. Zephyrin Leonard Chandonnet in November.

Father Chandonnet was born at Pierre de Bequet, Canada, July 10, 1848. He was ordained a priest of the Roman Catholic Church in 1874 and served that church in many places, including Trinidad and the West Indies. At the time of his death he was priest of St. James's hospital at Perham, Minn. With him, botany was a cherished and zealously pursued avocation and it was "no uncommon sight to see his venerable figure in the fields and woods" about Perham. He had many botanical correspondents both in this country and abroad.

Mr. Wentworth was born at Buxton, Maine, Jan. 1, 1854, and received a high school education. For 34 years prior to 1911, he served as Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent of the Maine State School for boys. In this work he made an enviable record. He brought to it the wise and kindly spirit which endeavors to regenerate rather than merely punish offenders, and the sympathy and understanding necessary to accomplish such a result. Under him the School "changed from what was practically a prison for boys with cells, prison bars and walls, to a part of the educational system of the State of Maine."

By an exchange with Prof. Clute, the Society has acquired the volumes of the *Fern Bulletin* needed to complete its set, and also a duplicate set of vols. 7-20 inclusive. The latter will be available for loaning to members as soon as it is bound.

Mr. H. C. Bigelow writes: "I have sent in one life membership, two new members and renewals of seven old subscriptions." Can any other member beat that record of work for the Society? Won't some one try?

New members—

- Cooper, Mrs. James E., 115 Vine St., New Britain, Conn.
Cordley, Mrs. H. G., 79 Ridgewood Ave., Glen Ridge, N. J.
Heatley, Miss Margaret, 23 Howe St., Wellesley, Mass.
Lombard, Dr. Robert H., Geophysical Laboratory, Washington, D. C.
Rooney, Mrs. Anna K., 368 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Sloper, Harold T., 36 Russell St., New Britain, Conn.

Changes of address—

Benedict, Dr. R. C., 322 East 19th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Moxley, Rev. G. L., 444 South Spring St., Los Angeles, Cal.
Rossberg, William B., 44 Hawkins St., New Britain, Conn.
Stolz, Rev. J. H., 4835 Longley Ave., Chicago, Ill.

The address of Miss Ada Tobitt should be Darling, Delaware Co., Pa., not Darling Co., as printed by mistake in the list of members.

President Bissell has appointed the following committee to nominate officers for 1917: R. A. Ware, Chairman, 246 Devonshire St., Boston, Mass.; Rev. J. A. Bates; and E. J. Winslow. Members are reminded that under the present constitution any nomination proposed by three members in good standing and sent to the chairman of the above committee before Aug. 20th, will be placed on the official ballot.

Prof. Frank T. McFarland of State University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky., is undertaking a special study with a view to a revision of the Botrychia. He desires specimens both fresh and dried from all parts of the United States. Material will be returned if the sender expresses a desire to have it again; otherwise it will be divided equally between the American Fern Society Herbarium and the University of Kentucky Herbarium.

For sale—FERN JOURNAL, complete, 5 vols.; 12 vols. and four extra numbers of the Fern Bulletin; and 30 or 40 botanical pamphlets—12 dollars. Rev. James A. Bates, South Royalston, Mass.—Advt.